REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Non-elected claims 4-8, 10-11 and 15-18 are cancelled without prejudice in response to the requirement of the Examiner. Claims 1, 3 and 12-14 are pending after the foregoing amendments.

Claims 3 and 13 are amended as suggested by the Examiner during the personal interview held on February 11, 2003.

Claims 1, 12 and 14 are amended to make the wording of these claims consistent with claims 3 and 13.

In addition, there is a Declaration submitted concurrently herewith, establishing that the flanking sequences in SEQ ID NO:. 1 are identical to the GenBank sequences of X12556, and establishing that the sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 5 and 6 are identical to the Genbank sequences of X12556.

Lastly, in reply to the Examiner's request, it is noted that the '5 flanking sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 and the Genbank X12556 are identical for nucleotides 1 to 2697. The '3 flanking sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 and the Genbank X12556 are identical for nucleotides 2716 to 3429 for SEQ ID NO: 1, and nucleotides 2879 to 3652 of Genbank X12556. Thus, the mutant version of SEQ ID NO: 1 is the region of nucleotides 2698 to 2715, in place of nucleotides 2698 to 2878 of Genbank X12556.

Attached is a marked up version of the claims.

Based upon the interview, it is believed that each ground of rejection set forth in the Official Action have now been overcome, and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, such allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Shunichi SHIOZAWA et al.

By: _____
Warren M. Cheek, Jr.
Registration No. 33,367
Attorney for Applicants

WMC/abm
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
March 27, 2003

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

In the Sequence Listing:

Please replace the Sequence Listing of record pages 1-2 with the attached substitute Sequence Listing consisting of pages 1-17.

In the Claims:

Above claim 1, insert the following:

What is claimed is:

Kindly cancel claims 2 and 9 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Twice Amended) A cDNA of a disease gene for rheumatoid arthritis, which comprises the nucleotide ~~base~~ sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

3. (Twice Amended) A DNA fragment ~~which comprises the base sequence of a part of~~ SEQ ID NO: 1, and ~~necessarily contains the base sequence from~~ 2693~~rd~~ to 2702~~nd~~ of SEQ ID NO: 1.

DNA of SEQ ID No 1 wherein said fragment comprises at least 4 nucleotides

Version with Markings to
Show Changes Made

7. (Twice Amended) A method for diagnosing rheumatoid arthritis, said method comprising detecting an mRNA from the cDNA of claim 1, in a biological specimen.

11. (Amended) A method for diagnosing rheumatoid arthritis, said method comprising detecting the protein of claim 4, in a biological specimen.

Kindly add the following new claims.

12. (Amended) A polynucleotide nucleotide comprising the ~~base~~ sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

13. (Amended) A polynucleotide consisting of a fragment of wherein ~~comprising the base sequence of a part of~~ SEQ ID NO: 1, ~~and necessarily contains the base sequence from~~ said polynucleotide comprises at least nucleotides 2693~~rd~~ to 2702~~nd~~ of SEQ ID NO: 1.

14. (Amended) The polynucleotide according to claim 13, which consists of nucleotides ~~the base sequence from~~ 2693~~rd~~ to 2702~~nd~~ of SEQ ID NO: 1.

15. A method for diagnosing rheumatoid arthritis, said method comprising detecting the DNA fragment of claim 3, in a biological specimen.

16. A method for diagnosing rheumatoid arthritis, said method comprising detecting the polynucleotide of claim 12, in a biological specimen.